The INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE

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Breeding Ground for Disease.

Workers' Housing Conditions.

By MARCIA.

A short time ago before the Chief Health Inspector, evidence was given of unsatisfactory housing in Sydney, in connection with the inquiry into the reasons for high rents.

The result was, that the Commissioner went round to see for himself. The following is a part of his report:

"I visited, without previous arrangement," he said, "a number of houses in eastern suburbs, to see for myself the nature of the dwellings which a portion of the people occupy. In very many instances no baths had been provided. Some houses had no coppers, a good many had no tubs, nor any of the elementary conveniences which should be provided in the houses. In one terrace of 28 houses which consisted of two rooms and kitchen, some of the children slept on a back verandah; in another terrace of 16 houses one had a bath; in another of 18 houses one had baths. The rentals of the first two terraces were 15s and 14s a week respectively. In another terrace of 28 houses rented at 12s 6d, there were no baths; in another terrace of 24 houses, rented at 15s 6d, very few had baths. In some there were not even stoves; all the cooking had to be done in open fireplaces. The rooms in many of the houses were small, and low, and the floors rat eaten. The back yards in almost all the houses would average not more than about 10ft x 10ft.

"I think it right to say that the conditions of the houses, with very few exceptions, were creditable to the tenants. At an expense for an bath being put in the houses, the commission has been informed that the tenants destroy and misuse them. I am bound to say I saw nothing that would suggest this. Most of the places were extremely neat and orderly, and the tenants were thrifty housewives, doing their best under the circumstances. The places I saw are in streets off the main arteries, and I formed the conclusion that what I saw is typical of a great deal more.

"I came to the conclusion that, with the exception of the kindlier climate which we enjoy, the people who live in a great many of our dwellings in that portion of the city are just about on the same level as the slum dweller I saw in South London. The climate here makes a great difference, and enables the tenants to make the best possible use of such places—by staying as much as possible outside them.

"It is a very serious problem. There are a great many excellent charitable institutions in Sydney, ameliorating conditions of this kind, but the practical result of this work is cut to the foundation so long as these conditions prevail.

So this is how some of the working class are housed in sunny N.S.W.

We hear from the mouth of a capitalist representative that such places are not fit to live in; and yet no remedy is offered.

In a further statement we hear that demolition is being contemplated, to improve the city: but it is admitted at the same time that no attempt to begin corresponding constructional work is being put on foot.

Consequently if an agitation is successful in inducing the government to pull down some of the squalid, rat infested slums which exist, the problem of providing shelters for the unfortunate people who are driven out into the streets, will still remain, so that either way they will have to suffer.

It is, however, only one more of the indictments that the capitalist system enforces on the workers.

And the owners of these dwellings try to excuse themselves by blaming the tenants for the state of the houses.

"We do not put in the houses because they are misused and destroyed, and yet the commissioner himself says "that I saw nothing that would suggest this."

Does it not strike our readers what a unpleasant state of affairs exists, when civilised human beings are being refused the common utensils, which are necessary for ordinary cleanliness?

How is it possible for clothes to be washed properly, or bodily cleanliness to be attended to, when people are denied the use of coppers, tubs and baths?

Australia is being threatened with the dread scourage of the so-called influenza: how can we hope to combat it, while such breeding grounds for disease and germs are permitted to remain like plague spots in the land?

The commissioner himself admits this, and goes on to say "the community generally would have to suffer."

The working class people generally would have to suffer, as they always do.

The very disease itself is a vile epidemic, which has been fostered and brought into being by existing conditions.

At various other epochs in the world's history, we have had plagues, pestilences which have devasted the face of the globe, notably after the conclusion of great wars, and of course the workers have been the greatest sufferers.

It could not possibly be otherwise.

They are herded together like cattle.

The members of the capitalist class can take every precaution, and if need be move away far from infected areas, into fresh and pure airy districts.

The workers must go on producing, even though they die at their posts: if they did not, they and their wives and children would undoubtedly have to starve, and at all events they are not able to get away from the stifling cities, so they are, in case of an outbreak of disease, caught like rats in a trap.

And how long do you of the working class intend to put up with these things? How often have we repeated that question, and here in Australia we are still waiting an answer.

Some politician or other is making promises which he has no hope of carrying out, and you are still prepared to support him in the belief that you may get some petty palliative for your pains.

But we of the Socialist movement are not satisfied with these vague promises, we want more than promises; we want substance, and the substance must be not less than the full products of our labor.

But we realise and we want you, our fellow workers to realise also, that nobody can help us to gain this object but ourselves.

We must organise and educate so that instead of having an ignorant mob allowing a few politicians to ride on their backs, we shall have an intelligent mass of people who know what they want, and will be content with nothing but the taking and holding of the tools of production.

We have before us now examples of other countries where the workers have learnt their lesson, and have raised for the first time in history the red flag of liberty, in the true sense of the word.

They are calling upon us to do likewise, and shall we let them call in vain?

But now, above all, if we respond to their appeal, we must respond intelligently, the time has gone by for anything but an UNCOMPROMISING position; if indeed it ever existed.

On the political and industrial field our demand must be the same, ALL WE PRODUCE, the capitalists as a class must be annihilated, and take thier place in the ranks of the only class which will exist, the workers of the world.

Then, and not till then, will we have the best of food the best of shelter, the best that this wonderful world can give us, and these conditions coupled with a lasting peace, will crush and finally stamp out disease and all its grim effects.

Telephony and Fashion.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. JUSTICE POWERS, ARBITRATION COURT JUDGE MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,—

In the columns of the Melbourne "Argus," 10/12/18, under the above heading, you are credited with having given utterance to remarks such as, coming from you, in the official position you hold, requires explanation.

The case referred to was one for a wage increase by the female workers of the Public Service (Telephone Branch). The examination of the eight witnesses called to give detailed explanation regarding expenditure on housing, clothing, travelling and sundries, was indeed humiliating. The witnesses were, on the whole, agreed on items common to all. As a consequence of this agreement as to their economic conditions you are reported to have shown great surprise, and out of this surprise you made statements that not only cast doubt on the witnesses, but on the working class in general. You even went as far as to imply that you, from your own personal knowledge, were in possession of facts to the contrary. The statement is as follows: "I have a family, and do not find it to be so."

Now, Sir, the assumed or natural expression of surprise by you at the item relating to shoes and the hilarity you caused in court by the observation, "I should like to see some of the shoes," was a mere detail in comparison to the surprise of the wage working community on the silence that followed your judicial exclamation. The request was far from being one of levity, although we are informed that these women workers, who perform a useful function in society, when giving details of "secrets of the toilet," much merriment was created.

It could hardly be for the purpose aforesaid of adding to the scene, and as one whose legal training has taught the value placed on words the only other inference is an implied one in that you doubted the veracity of the witnesses as to the costs, and that you as a family man (to use your own words) knew it to be incorrect.

You said too much and too little, seeing that the question was one in which the high cost of living was under discussion; why did you not proceed to cite FACTS to the contrary, F-A-C-T-S that would have put all doubts at rest FACTS from your own personal observation, showing the annual income and expenditure in your own household. Aye! even to the number of times that your women folks had their shoes repaired. Such information, coming from you, would have cleared the atmosphere, nay, more, it would have taught those misguided workers a homely lesson on thrift as practiced by an arbitration court judge. It would, no doubt, have made the fur fly off that ridiculous theory—the "HIGH COST OF LIVING."

It cannot be claimed that the occasion was inopportune, seeing that the whole case was pivoted on the question. Neither can you claim exoneration on the ground that it was outside the domain of man's enquiry, for, did you not give it out authoritatively that on such matters you were well posted in the statement, "I have a family, and do not find it to be so"; in saying so much you said too little, and the kindly hand held out to you by counsel to enable you to get out of the awkward position your words had placed you in by suggesting that your family did not have to work daily; the silence which followed was most eloquent, and not without good reason; and the apologetic smiling acquiescent manner with which you concurred proves that whatever else you may NOT know this cannot be denied, that instanct, the guiding factor of the class to which you belong, warns you of the pitfalls you would inevitably have fallen into had you attempted an explanation that would have raised the question as to the cause of the HIGH COST OF LIVING.

Your silence to the intelligent working class speaks volumes. Your silence is not only significant of your brazen hypocriey, but demonstrative of your aptitude to fulfil the functions of the class you so ably represent.

W. HARRIS.

COMING LECTURES!

SOCIALIST HALL, 369 PITT ST. (OPP. DANKS.)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th, at 8 p.m.

J. B. SCOTT (Of Melbourne).

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS.

Whosoever you are, if you believe in Scientific Socialism, you must recognise the need for organisation. Why not set a good example to the workers whom you come in contact with, and whom we know you try to educate, by joining up with the A.S.P.

If there is no BRANCH in your locality, you can become a MEMBER AT LARGE, and thus become a REAL LIVE WIRE.

For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

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Capitalism's Fruits

AND SOCIALISM'S IDEALS.

By J. B. SCOTT.

The system of capitalism breeds braggarts and cowards. It breeds murderers and assassins. It breeds bullies and brutality. Men have a social instinct that must be crushed before men will slay and brutalise one another. When a child comes into the world, he knows nothing of nationality, nothing of hatred, nothing of past murders in which some of his ancestors participated. These ideas have to be implanted in his mind.

Did you ever see two children playing sand castles on the beech? Did you ever hear them rail at one another on account of religion or nationality? You never have, unless the children are old enough to have been poisoned in the chloroforming institutions of capitalism. All that is bad in man is created (allowing a very small percentage for heredity.)

These thoughts occurred to me when I read of the Belgian soldiers entering Germany and forcing the civilian population to get off the sidewalks and doff their hats to them. That is cowardice. That is the act of a braggart. No doubt the German soldiers in Belgium did the same, that, too, was the act of a coward. But that mock bravery is the outcome of capitalism's teachings.

Men are taught to hate one another. Men are taught to believe that outside their own particular narrow national groove all men are inferior. In this manner men can be called upon to butcher one another in battle, where neither will be the gainers, and where both will be the losers.

In each country the ruling class have adopted a piece of cloth with a few gaudy colors upon it, some in the shape of straight lines, others with squares, others with crosses, and others again with signs representing the sun. These flags, or pieces of cloth, are national, each nation has a ruling class—a capitalist class—and as each capitalist group in each nation despoil the working class of that nation it should be obvious to the man or woman who desires to see a real civilisation built up, that the workers of all the world have everything in common with each other, and nothing in common with the capitalist class of the country in which they happen to reside and slave.

With the workers, the only useful class in society, uniting it would bring about that civilisation which we all desire to see. The spirit of nationality would die and make room for that greater and grander spirit of internationality. The flags representingl the ruling class would be placed in the museums where they would be regarded by the then civilised people as relics of a brutal past that divided humanity into hating groups.

The flag, if any were used then, would be of such a hue that it would represent the human blood of international brotherhood and international love. The cause of murder would no longer exist. The miseducation of the people would have ceased. The lust for conquest and power would be banished from the minds of men. The calamitious happenings of the past could never happen again. Instead of men being pitted against men in national strife, men would unite to enslave nature to the service of man.

The spirit of the child would live in man—the spirit of love and fraternity. This, comrade, is no idle dream. This is near at hand, and even as I write the Socialists in every portion of the globe are striving toward this great end; they are covered with yellow mud thrown by the mean spirits who live in narrow grooves, they are imprisoned and stoned because they have worked for this high ideal.

To arrive at this, what is necessary?

If you are a worker act as a worker. Your place is in the ranks of the working class political party, which is governed by the interests of that class: that party, comrade, is the Australian Socialist Party. Do you belong to it? We need your help so that you can help yourself.

Politically and industrially, hand in hand, with your assistance we will march to our goal.

Slams and Jabs.

By JAYBES.

Three Traitors are Photographed.

"A man is known by the company he keeps," so we are told. In the case of the photo appearing in the Melbourne "Herald," in which three of the greatest fakirs in industrial history posed, it would indeed be a hard matter to find out which of the three is the greatest humbug.

Havelock Wilson, Liberal M.P. and secretary of the British Seamen's Union; Billy Hughes, ex-president of the Australian Waterside Workers. Sammy Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor (one of the greatest labor traitors known). Between the three it is about a dead heat. They represent the three blind mice.

* * *

The Socialist Party versus the Labor Party.

From Capetown, South Africa, comes a Reuter stating that the South African Socialists have refused the invitation of the S.A. Labor Pary to join up with them. Comrade Andrews, secretary of the Socialist Party, describes the invitation as "amusing and impertinent."

So say all of us. For a reform party, who hoodwink the working class into believing that the political movement can get anything for the workers which the workers are not strong enough to force by their industrial organisation, to ask the revolutionary political movement of the working class to link up with them is impertinence indeed. One tinkers with the rotten system while the other intends to uproot it entirely. The revolutionary political movement of the proletariat will only unite with the other parties on PRINCIPLE that principle being the overthrow of Capitalism. That is the very reason there is so wide a gap between the Australian Socialist Party and the Australian Labor Party.

* * *

Great Battle Between the Ministerialists and Laborites.

A battle royal took place in the grounds of the Federal Parliament House the other day between members of the Government and the Labor Opposition. It was a desperate conflict in which the Laborites were defeated. Was it during a debate on the proposals to abolish the War Precautions Act? Was it over the Labor Party politicians' strenuous efforts to show the rotten housing conditions of the workers in the Australian working class suburbs? Had it anything to do with the rotten conditions under which the men return from the front? Had it anything to do with anything of interest to the working class. Oh, dear NO!

It was over a game of bowls. Instead of playing bowls the labor party political know-nothings should stay at home and read a book. They will wonder what has hit them in a few month's time.

* * *

Willie Watt's Brand of Freedom.

In reply to a working class deputation which awaited upon him, re the withdrawal of the War Precautions Act, Willie Watt said: "I believe in freedom of speech within the limit of safety." Safety for whom, may we ask? The Bloody Czar, the Imperial Kaiser and the Sultan of Turkey believed in that kind of freedom of speech. Freedom to say what the other fellow wants you to say is not freedom. Freedom that does not permit the speaking and writing of plain truths is only another form of despotism. Truth never considers the "limits of safety," for anything that hides itself from the truth is not fit to stand. Facts are not wanted by the ruling class. Facts would make the workers think, and with a thinking class Willie Watt would be well back selling oats and hay, and the system for which he prostitutes himself would have a fairly decent totter on it. Give us the truth, the rest will take care of itself.

* * *

The sentiment of revolution can never be measured by the size of the revolutionary organisations. There are men in the revolutionary movement who are abject pessimists, and they gather their pessimism from the fact that the forces of revolution have had no phenomenal growth and at present show no signs of strength. This is no criterion to go by. In every group of men are to be found class conscious workers who, when the time arrives will join the army of the revolution. There are thousands of men in reform parties, such as the Australian Labor Party and the Victorian Socialist Party who are very sincere about the revolutionary (and it is from such men that such movements draw their strength) who will eventually see that the movements which they are attempting to keep straight through "boring from within" are worthless, and are only utilising their efforts for reforms and cash for the meal-ticket artists who abound in them. The army of the revolution only needs to be recruited, the material is there, and good material it is. Be of good cheer, comrade worker, the hour for unity is close at hand.

* * *

Dr. Siegfried's Idea of Freedom.

When the agents of capitalism, in the shape of commissions, visit a country that is owned by another body of capitalists, they generally start in by telling the workers of that country that they are the finest people they ever met, their intelligence is par excellent, their manly physique is unparalleled and their bravery marks an epoch in the world's history. These be brave words indeed, and it is this kind of piffle that swells the breast of the average Henry Dubb. Dr. Andre Siegfried, of the French mission, is no exception to the rule. He visited the Port Pirie smelters, in company with the owners or shareholders, and while there he had the brazen effrontery to tell the workers that "the Australian working man is one of the freest persons in the world."

I am more of an authority to speak for the Australian working man than Andre Frogzie, inasmuch as I am one of them, while Andre isn't.

I find that in Australia the same economic law prevails as in any other portion of the world. The wages are determined by the cost of sustenance. All the workers of Australia get is a bare living. I have been looking for this much vaunted freedom for a long time, and it has always managed to be where I am not, and when I get to where it is it has got to know I was coming and escaped me. There is no freedom for the workers under capitalism. If to receive one-fifth of the value of the product your labor creates be freedom, we have it. If to dread the cold hand of want and see those around you without the bare necessities be freedom, it IS here. If to permit an idle class, who produce nothing, to live on the fat of the land, surrounded by luxury and grandeur, be freedom for the workers. Glory be! It is ours.

Freedom will come with Socialism and not before. Freedom cannot exist when one man has to beg another for a job. With industry socialised man will be free—when that time comes we will need no French capitalistic henchman to tell us about it. It will be a freedom we can feel and see.

* * *

Workers! Make a Note of It.

The German capitalist class, like the Russian capitalist class, is now welcoming the enemy forces to "assist them in keeping order." You know what this means, do you not? It means that in those two countries the workers are on top, and that capitalism is likely to get the go bye. The blood of capitalism is thicker than water, they are led by instinct, and instinct tells them that when the capitalist system is overthrown in Germany, and the Workers' Industrial Republic established their own doom is close at hand. Just watch, from now on, and you will see that the German owners of the land and machinery of production will unite with the same class in the Allied countries to defeat, if possible, the workers.

* * *

Was it a War to End War?

When the bosses were calling out for men to see the world through the bore of a rifle they were telling us that this was a war to end war, some believed it, but we Socialists knew it wasn't so. We know that capitalism is the cause of all war, and that war will never end until the system ends. It is hardly necessary to remind you of this, but there are some who need a reminder, and for their benefit we draw attention to the fact that "Great Britain must maintain her supremacy on the sea." America and Japan is even now competing in building ships of war. France is beginning to re-organise her army, and all the capitalists of the Occident and the Orient have hawk-like eyes on capturaible trade routes whereby they can more easily ship the products created by the underfed workers of their own country. If you are sincere in your wish to see the end of war your place is with the revolutionary working class organisations who are out for the overthrow of capitalism. The Australian Socialist Party is THE revolutionary political party in Australia, and if the workers are to triumph, as triumph they necessarily must, it will be when they adopt the principles and policy of the A.S.P. and not before. Help swell the ranks of Labor's political army for the coming revolution. Join the A.S.P.

* * *

More Lies from Russia.

Some Swedish Naval Attache, whose name is not given ,is reported to have arrived from Petrograd where he is supposed to have lived, and while there he found out that Lenin and Trotsky heatedly discussed the question of abandoning the entire Soviet regime. The report goes on to say that Lenin favored the abandonment, and Trotsky opposed the proposal, and by securing a small majority decided to hold out to the last.

This is a lie on the face of it. Neither Lenin nor Trotsky could, even if they willed it, abandon the Soviet regime. They are not the Soviet, they are only the elected leaders of the movement. It is just like saying that Lloyd George and Billy Hughes has decided to abandon the capitalist regime. Suppose either of them did desert the Bolshevik movement, what then? Do you suppose that a movement of a revolutionary character depends upon individuals? Not a bit of it! If Lenin and Trotsky died to morrow the movement would go on and on, and Lenin and Trotsky are the two men who realise this only too well.

This report comes from some foolish individual who is of the belief that men make movements, and if the men are killed the movement is dead.

This "Swedish Attache," whoever he be, has got the anarchist kink.

* * *

It's marvellous how people swallow the press dope and go to sleep on it. The press is the moulder of public opinion (that doesn't say much for the intelligence of the people, does it?) Still it remains a fact. Men who are otherwise shrewd and intelligent men are completely chloroformed by the cables appearing from day to day. It never seems to dawn upon them to link up the cables. They take them as they come, and swallow the lot. To those men and women there is a terrible shock coming. When the strong arm of Labor is unbound, and his strength felt the world will rock from pole to pole, and all the cherished ideals of those who are now fooling the people will crash down about their ears. The only people who will receive no shock will be the Socialists—we see it coming.

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Simonoff's Case

PROTESTS FROM RUSSIAN WORKERS.

Brisbane.

Resolution of the Russian Workers' Association adopted unanimously, at the special meeting on November 10, 1918:

"Comrade P. Simonoff, who was appointed as the Russian Bolshevik Consul-General for Australia, has been arrested, and is awaiting his trial on bail. And we, the Russian citizens, are kept in this 'free' country practically as war prisoners, which, in our opinion, is not justified. Such an act towards the Russian people and their revolution appears to everyone, outside the class-biassed capitalistic parasites, as hostile to an attempt to bring about a new system of social life that is built upon the principle of industrial democracy which we consider inevitable, considering that we are not living in the times of the Middle Ages. In spite of the Capitalist clique's lying Press, the Russian revolution is being recognised to be one of good faith. But mad reaction seems not to have any limits. Our meetings have been broken up by force with the benevolent permission of the military authorities. The lying Press pours out upon us its dirt, and there is no right to freely reply to our misrepresentors.

"Continuing legally our work of cultivating acquaintance with the general literary and social knowledge, we emphatically protest against the savage violence exercised upon us. Independent of whether the authorities recognise Comrade P. Simonoff as the Bolshevik representative or not, we do not recognise him in Australia as the lawful representative of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, and protest against the violators who are attempting to choke free speech and free thought. In the past periods of violence have created negative results, and compelled movements to go underground and continue their work legally, responding to force by force. Violence always has only increased the forces, strengthened the ranks, and created a desire for revenge.

"Protesting against violence, we put the responsibility for what is taking place upon those who created it. We demand the right of personal inviolableness of our representative, Comrade P. Simonoff, the right of free propaganda for Comrade Moosenko, right of citizenship for those willing to stay in Australia, and we also demand free passage for all those who are willing to leave the country wherein we are in an offhand manner treated as voiceless slaves or as war prisoners.

Applying to you, we speak with the voice of the members of the great Russian Proletariat we are proud of the consciousness that we are brothers in blood and spirit to those wonderful fighters for the great future of mankind who are continuing their colossal work in Russia. And, being alive to the possibilities of excesses because of unjust repression, we demand an immediate answer to our quite lawful demands. We desire to propagate our economic ideas legally in Australia, and express our indignation to those who would take away from us this faith by brute force."

Miss Fanny Rosenberg, General Secretary, and Mished Wishnevsky, Chairman, Russian Workers' Association.

Melbourne.

At a meeting of the Russian Association of Melbourne on 21st November, 1918, the following resolution was passed:

We Russians in Australia emphatically protest against the action of the Federal Government in the conviction of Mr. Peter Simonoff, the Consul-General of the Russian Government, whose only crime was a burning desire to tell the workers of Australia the truth about Russia.

We appeal to you, the workers of Australia, who are told that you live in the freest country in the world, where every individual is allowed expression of opinion and freedom of speech, to unite in protest against the imprisonment of the representative of the Russian Democracy. Believing that here in Australia he was free from the autocracy of Czardom and the despotic system of suppression, he spoke in the interest of the working class, and attempted to enlighten them on the facts surrounding the Russian Revolution, where the autocracy and suppression is now abolished by the organised might of the proletariat. Are you going to allow the despotism destroyed by the Russian workers in Russia to establish itself here in Australia under the guise of Liberty? We ask you to do only what the workers of Russia would do for you under similar circumstances, and that is to demand the reinstatement of Peter Simonoff into his rights as a free citizen.

Committee of the Russian Association in Melbourne.

V. PETRUCHENIA, Secretary.

Selwyn.

The following resolution was carried by the Russians of Selwyn: "We, the Russian workers' group of Selwyn, protest against the arrest of our Bolshevik Consul Simonoff, and on behalf of the group demand his immediate release."

MOSES BARITZ.

Moses Baritz recently lectured in the Sydney branch hall under the assumed name of W. C. Larson. The reason for this was because he was being deported by the U.S.A. immigration authorities during his short stay here, owing to his attack upon industrial unionism, some one who lacked the necessary knowledge put up a case against him, started a rude to the effect that he was a pimp sent here to put it over the I.W.W.

We do not agree with Baritz's opinions, but we do know that he is sincere and true to his class. Readers will realise his position; shipped here without even a change of clothe, and having to report to the military authorities, he was not able to make himself known. The following, taken from the official organ of the party to which he belonged, will clear him from those false charges:—

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Our readers will regret to hear that Comrade Moses Baritz, well known through the Dominion and the States as Socialist propagandist, has been confined in the Immigration Station in Seattle, Wash., for considerably more than a month now.

The information laid against him does not square with his well-known expressed opinions from the public platform all over the country, and his articles which have appeared in the "Western Clarion" for many years. Note, particularly, an article appearing in the December issue of 1916, number seven of a series of articles by him on the European situation in which he makes a bitter attack on the anarchists in general and on those in Austria in particular. Indeed the animus he has always displyed against them has almost reached the point of obsession, and was wont to cause much amusement amongst his friends.

We will let Baritz tell the tale of his predicament in his own words, in extracts, which we take from letters sent to us.

April 23rd "... allegations are made that I am an anarchist and belong to the I.W.W. I am producing evidence to-morrow to show that Socialism and Anarchism are diametrically opposed to each other. I am calling Professor W. Ogburn, of Washington University, to present an analysis of Marxism. He can do it and will help me immensely.

"I was arrested on instructions from San Francisco Naval Intelligence Department, where it was alleged

1st—That I was an assistant to and supporter of Emma Goldman this winter in New York City.

2nd—That I delivered lectures in Yiddish on anarchistic subjects.

3rd—That I was getting pledges for an 'overthrowal of the present system,' in association with members of the I.W.W.

4th—That I was met on February 17, on my arrival in San Francisco by a committee of I.W.W.

5th—That my name is Morris Baritzski, and that I wore a beard in New York City.

6th—That I was going back to New York to take charge of a Russian Revolutionary paper."

After giving more details he says: "I am hoping to have printed some day, my examination and cross-examination, for it provides an excellent statement of the case of Socialism v. Anarchism." All is grist that comes to Moses' mill. Up to date his examination is still going on and his bail which was at first a thousand dollars, is now ten thousand.

All comrades, we are sure, will hope with us, for Baritz's speedy release.

THE NINCOMPOOP.

(By Steele Cathcart.)

As the Americans say, I've got a grouch, I've been wild to-day. I met a man who said he was quite satisfied with his wage of 8/4 per day. Isn't that enough to make any Socialist use strong language.

But wasn't he a boob, a numbskull, a nincompoop, a bonehead?

This happened in Adellaide, a very conservative city, and considered to be ultra-wowseristic. At any rate, the capitalists have the best of everything, no matter what religion they profess.

But as I said before somewhere, my religion is Socialism—the religion of humanity. The religion that is to make people happy on earth.

8/4 per day, and quite contented on it.

Could any decent man have the cheek to ask a decent girl to marry him and live together and rear children on that wage?

There wouldn't be much happiness for them on that pittance.

Imagine the scraping and saving; the practising of "thrift"; the advice of the hypocritical capitalist; the haggling over purchases, and all the rest of it, that most of us know only too well. And then the inferior house they rent in the slums, or on the outskirts of the city, the husband riding a bicycle five miles or more to work; the wife only going into town on Friday nights, doing her shopping at the Central Market. And so on ad infinitum. Isn't it sickening? Oh, hell!

Do the capitalists get married and live on 8/4 per day?

Most of them spend more than that every day on lunches, cigars, magazines, drinks, flowers for their fiancee, tram fares, shoe shines, etcetera. There "some" fun in having money to spend.

But these money grabbers who have all the good things of life, holidays, fine clothes, the best houses, and so on, enjoy them at the expense of the boob who was paid 8/4 per day.

Some person or persons unknown, belonging to the capitalist class, played the confidence trick on this poor nincompoop, and the ignoramus didn't know it, but some people can't see a joke until everybody else has laughed.

He didn't know he was being robbed by his boss; but he was, nevertheless, and still is unless he has retired, and lives in luxury.

And the capitalist class is robbing the rest of us, too.

Now what we must do, and do it quick, is to ORGANISE and TAKE over the fields, the factories and shops, and work them on a co-operative basis for ourselves, for the benefit of everybody, and not for one class—the capitalists—as we are doing at present.

Every stroke of work done, every purchase made, goes to consolidate the position of the master class.

The capitalists have the whip hand at present, they control us body and soul, but we Socialists will NEVER give up our fight until we have established the Co-operative Commonwealth in all nations and everybody throughout the world is HAPPY.

The 8/4 per day meek and mild nincompoop might be a little more happy on 12/- per day, and would probably say a prayer, and redouble his efforts for his boss if given such an increase. BUT HE WOULD STILL BE A WAGE SLAVE.

WORKERS, SOCIALISM is the only guide that will take us out of this maze of wage slavery.

JOIN THE SOCIALISTIC ARMY TODAY.

The Inter Allied Conference.

HENDERSON PLAYS LOW.

International Socialist League (South Africa.)

Neppes Buildings, 54 Fox Street,
Johannesburg, South Africa,
21st October, 1918.

Editor "The International Socialist,"

Dear Comrade,

The following is a resolution passed at a recent conference, and is self explanatory:—

"Whereas a cable was received by the International Socialist League (S.A.) from the secretary of the British section of the International, 1917, inviting that body to send a delegate to an Inter-Allied Conference to be held at London in August, 1917, and later to a proposed Conference to be held at Stockholm."

"And whereas, in response to that invitation, the above organisation in Conference assembled with the Social Democratic Party, Cape Town, the Social Democratic Party, Durban, the Jewish Socialist Society, Cape Town, the Indian Workers' Union, Durban, the Native Workers' Union, Johannesburg, the Tailors' and Tailoresses' Union, Johannesburg, Kimberley Specialists and South African Peace and Arbitration Society, Cape Town, Pretoria Socialist Society and many unattached Socialists on August 5th 1917, in Johannesburg and decided to send a delegate."

"And whereas Comrade W. F. Andrews was unanimously selected and at considerable sacrifice to himself and the above organisation sailed on August 19th, 1917."

"And whereas on arrival in England he was too late to attend the first mentioned Conference, but at an early date presented his credentials to Mr. Henderson, Secretary to the British section of the International."

"And whereas Mr. Henderson assured him that at any Inter-Allied or International Conference he would be entitled to attend Mr. Henderson's exact words being: "You can depend upon it there is no possibility of a meeting being held without your being informed, as we ourselves would be very much disappointed if any working class representative holding credentials such as yours was in this country, and not present when an Inter-Allied or International Conference was held."

"And whereas, notwithstanding this assurance no invitation was given Comrade Andrews to the Inter-Allied Conference to be held on February 20th, 1918, and on our delegate asking for explanation he was informed that he could only be admitted in a consultative capacity with no right to speak or vote; and that, on attempting to address the Conference for the purpose of stating his case he was asked to resume his seat by the chairman, instructed by Mr. Henderson, and was obliged to remain a silent spectator throughout the proceedings.

"And whereas one primary object of our delegate's journey was unaccomplished owing to the prejudiced attitude adopted by the conveners of the last mentioned Conference."

"This Conference of delegates from the beforementioned bodies and unattached supporters meeting in the Palmerston Hall, Johannesburg on Sunday, 11th August, 1918, places on record its most emphatic protest against the injustice of such proceedings and trusts that the Socialists of Great Britain and other countries will insist that at any future Labor-Socialist Conference all sections of the workers' movement shall be adequately represented and that, in addition, the pernicious system of voting in national groups at the International Conference be departed from."

For the Social Revolution
Fraternally yours,
THOS. P. LINKER,
Secretary.

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A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

On December 8th, Com. E. Wetherell lectured at the Hall on "The European Situation."

Before he opened his address, Mr. Kerr, President of the A.M.A., Broken Hill, gave a short account of the recent doings in that vicinity.

He set the audience right about the disturbances by returned soldiers, and the account of them in the capitalist press.

Needless to say, his version differed from that of the latter, and proved yet once again of the lying statements that are dished out to the public by the capitalist.

After Mr. Kerr had concluded his few remarks, Com. Wetherell proceeded with his lecture.

He pointed out the hopefulness, from a working-class viewpoint, of the situation in Europe.

The workers were realising who their real enemy was, and were organising to destroy him. Here again the press was conspiring to prevent the truth from being known.

It could print scare head lines about the Kaiser's crimes, and the fearsome state of Germany, and the Russians on the verge of starvation, etc., but in a little corner in the smallest type was tucked away the most important announcement in the paper: That in some parts of France martial law was declared owing to the spread of Bolshevik literature and propaganda.

Altogether the European situation was most hopeful, and he urged the Australian people to consider their own rotten conditions, and organise to overthrow their tyrants.

Space does not permit of a detailed account of the lecture; but Com. Wetherall is certainly an asset to the Party as a speaker.

His style is lucid and definite, and it would be hard for the dullest person who heard him to miss grasping and holding at least one or two important facts.

On the following Sunday, the Rev. Mr. Rivett, of the A.P.A., gave an address on "War! A Blunder and a Blasphemy."

The lecturer spoke to a crowded house, and as usual interested, and held his audience.

He spoke of war, as he had done many times before, and condemned the attitude of the Church towards it. In his opinion the latter should have taken a definite stand against the war, and the wholesale horrors that are known to be a part and parcel of all wars.

He spoke of the moral and physical effects of war, and finally of the time when wars should be no more; and a better and brighter system prevail.

Before the lecture a programme of musical items were rendered.

Mr. G. Harvey played selections on the violin, and Com. Saunders and Mr. Rickard on the piano.

The Chairman, before introducing Mr. Rivett, called for the first and last verses of "The Red Flag," which were sung to violin and pianoforte accompaniment.

Paper sales are still excellent, and the Saturday night dance shows better results each week.

MARCIA REARDON,
Hon. Secretary.

BARRIER LECTURES!

SOCIALIST HALL, SULPHIDE ST.

A.S.P. Badges

A NEW SUPPLY OF BADGES HAVE COME TO HAND, AND ARE NOW PROCURABLE AT 1/6, POSTAGE 1/8. QUANTITIES TO BRANCHES AT 1/5 EACH.

MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS; ADDRESS SAME TO THE GEN. SEC., A.S.P., 115 GOULBURN ST., SYDNEY.

ONE BIG UNION AND POLITICAL ACTION.

On Sunday, 15th, we had Messrs. Willis, Morby and Baddeley at Thirroul propagating the One Big Union scheme. Willis pointed out the need for Industrial Unionism: Morby explained the principles and policy, Baddeley dealt with the effects. All the speakers had a splendid hearing.

At question time, a few intelligent questions were asked and all answered satisfactorily, with one exception. Comrade Browne, secretary of the Corrimal branch A.S.P., put the following question: "Where is the One Big Union going to find its political reflex?" Morby took in hand to answer, and, after twisting, and screwing, and slicing it till it was unrecognisable, and with a bit of sarcasm, added for effect, proceeded to answer it.

Comrade Browne took objection to his question being mutilated, and put it again, volunteering at the same time to answer it, which he did by pointing out that the only Revolutionary Political reflex to the Revolutionary Industrial One Big Union lay in the Socialist Party. Our comrades line of argument was this: If the One Bg Union stands for Scientific Socialism, call it Socialism, if for I.W.W.-ism, or Non-Political, call it such; hide nothing from the rank and file that will have to be explained away later, don't try getting them into the movement and explaining after, let us put all our cards on the table at the outset and let everybody see our meaning clearly. What is the use of an organisation, strong industrially and weak politically. If this is the method by which we are going to build up our One Big Union, I can see failure staring us in the face from the outset. Our propagandists must learn to answer any intelligent question dealing with the problem, without sneering at the questioner, or trying to sidestep the question, as it leaves an impression behind that there is something to hide, and I don't blame the workers for being suspicious, as they have been dragged through all the bye-roads of reform by some of the same crowd who are now trying to shuffle them on to the right track. We shall meet with all sorts of obstacles on our journey to emancipation, but there is no obstacle too big to be overcome by "proper tactics," and at the same time there is no detail too small to be overlooked.

I write this hoping that some of my comrades more able with the pen than I am will take the matter up. Political action cannot be ignored. Political action put our comrades of the I.W.W. behind the prison bars, sentenced Tom Mooney to the chair, "a sentence which has been revoked," hauled Comrade Judd and thousands more before the beak to give reasons why they should not be sentenced to heavy fines or terms of imprisonment for no greater crimes than fighting the workers' cause.

R. BLAIR, Corrimal.

* * *

(Comrade Blair states in a letter that the speakers referred to above left a bad impression down the coast, giving to some the idea that they were "feeling the ground preparing to launch the A.L.P. as the political reflex of the O.B.U." He also states that from what he can gather through mixing with the workers they will not have them at any price.—Ed. I.S.)

... The ... Australian Socialist Party.

PRINCIPLES AND POLICY.

Objective.

The Social ownership and control of the means of production and distribution.

Statement of Principles.

The present form of Society rests on private ownership of the land and the machinery (tools) of production.

The owners of most of the land and machinery of production constitute what is economically known as the capitalist class. Hence the use of the term, "The capitalist form of society."

This form of ownership divides society in all countries into two distinct and opposing classes—the capitalist class and the working class.

The working class produces all the wealth of society, whilst it only receives sufficient to enable it to carry on production (i.e. a living wage). The rest of the wealth is appropriated by the capitalist class, and is known as surplus value.

Thus a conflict of interests is set up over the division of this wealth, each class striving to obtain possession of a greater portion. This conflict of interests begets a never-ceasing struggle known as the class war, some section or other of the working class being ever engaged in actual conflict.

Political Action and the State.

The struggle forces the workers to organise on the industrial field. But this organisation inevitably produces political consequences.

The State, that combination of legal, judicial and coercive forces, which is directed by parliament (the executive of the capitalist system), is the weapon with which the capitalist class defeats the workers on the industrial field. Finding themselves in conflict with the State, the workers are forced to find political expression for their economic organisations.

Inasmuch as industrial action produces its political reflex, the A.S.P. recognises the use of revolutionary political action on the above basis, as distinct from the palliative-mongering parliamentarism of non-revolutionary parties, to be essential to the complete overthrow of the capitalist system.

Political action then is only of value to the working-class, so far as it truly reflects its organised industrial power.

As to Unionism.

The A.S.P. aims and declares for Industrial Unionism as against craft or sectional unionism, for whereas the specialisation of the processes of production, the invention of machinery, and the concentration of ownership into fewer and fewer hands, makes craft unionism unable to cope with this economic development, and ever growing power of the employing class, because it is a relic of a lower stage in the evolution of capitalist production, i.e., the organised abor expressions of lower forms of tools, the A.S.P. therefore declares that to-day this organisation has outlived its usefulness, and has created crafts and sections amongst the working class in the same industry, and this contradiction in industrial development allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set in the same industry, and industry against industry, thereby defeating one another when waging war against the encroachments of the capitalist class, with their superior and higher developed organisations. And in view of this economic development the working class must organise in such a manner as will correspond to the development of the tools of production.

The A.S.P. therefore affirms that industrial unionism in contradistinction to craft unionism is that form of organisation which is based upon the recognition of the class struggle, and through which all its members in one industry or in all industries, if necessary, can act as a unit on the industrial field.

The A.S.P. therefore endorses the 1916 preamble of the W.I.I.U.

As to Economic Interpretation of History.

The A.S.P. pledges itself to the materialistic interpretation of history, which asserts that the transition from one system of society to another, as in the past, from primitive communism to chattel slavery, from chattel slavery to feudalism, and from feudalism to the present Capitalist State, has been the result of new and improved methods of production.

All the institutions of any period of society are moulded by the prevailing economic conditions. The religious, juridical, educational and social institutions, therefore reflect the interests of the dominant class. Thus these institutions and their ideology bolster up the capitalist system.

As to Militarism.

The A.S.P. declares itself uncompromisingly hostile to all forms of armaments and militarism, recognising that the armed forces will be used to buttress up capitalism, and to hold down the workers. The A.S.P. further recognises that the energies of the working class can be better utilised in building up their industrial and political organisations, which shall finally render war impossible, as such organisations by international affiliation and alliances between the working classes of all nations will be the chief guarantee of the peace of the world.

"THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST."

Does the "I.S." suit you? Do you think it is doing good work, Do you wish to see the good work continue, If so, show your appreciation and assist by getting subscribers.

SOCIALIST HALL
369 Pitt Street.

DANCE EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

LECTURE EVERY SUNDAY EVENING

WET WEATHER.

ON WET SUNDAYS WHEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD A MEETING ON THE DOMAIN, AN AFTERNOON MEETING—WILL BE HELD IN THE A.S.P. HALL, 369 PITT ST., COMMENCING AT 2.45.

Economic Class

THE ECONOMIC CLASS IS BEING HELD IN SYDNEY BRANCH HALL EVERY THURSDAY EVENING. ALL THOSE WHO DESIRE A KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMICS SHOULD MAKE SURE OF ATTENDING.

-: The Australian Socialist Party :-

SOCIALISM THE HOPE OF HUMANITY

OBJECTIVE.

The Social ownership and control of the means of production and distribution.

HEADQUARTERS:

115 GOULBURN ST., SYDNEY., N.S.W.
A. S. REARDON, Gen. Sec.- Treas.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Any Branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this Office.

BROKEN HILL.

Socialist Hall, Sulphide St.
All rebels making their way to the "Hill" will receive a welcome at the above address.
Every Sunday morning: Lectures.
Every Sunday night, 7.30: Lectures.
Study course of Scientific Socialism: Every Thursday night, 7.30.
Public Speaker Class.
Good Library for Members.

CORRIMAL.

Rebels on the South Coast, come along and link up with a scientific working class organisation. A welcome awaits you.
Meetings every back Sunday, 2 p.m.
E. R. BROWNE, Secretary.
Railway Street,
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P. STALKER, Secretary.

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47 Victoria St., Melbourne.
Library and Reading Room for members.
Lectures held every Sunday evening.
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Hall: Hatte's Arcade, King St., Newtown.
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Hall: 369 Pitt Street, City.
Library for members.
Lecture every Sunday evening.
Debating Class held every Thursday evening.
Business Meeting every alternate Thursday evening.
Dance every Saturday evening.

THIRROUL BRANCH.

P. France, Secretary, Phillips St., Thirroul.
Branch meets every Pay Sunday.

RECRUITING LOCAL No. 2, W.I.I.U.

Meets Alternate Wednesday Evenings.
47 Victoria St., Melbourne.

RECRUITING LOCAL No. 3 W.I.I.U.,

Meets Alternate Sundays, 3 p.m.
Wonthaggi.

MELBOURNE LECTURES!

EVERY SUNDAY EVENING.
Under the Auspices of the Australian Socialist Party at
47 VICTORIA ST., CITY.

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